

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace paragraph [0396] of the specification with the following new paragraph:

[0396] In certain embodiments, the target-specific portions of two ligation probes that are intended to hybridize to the same portion of a target nucleic acid sequence may include different nucleotides as long as such differences do not prevent appropriate ligation. For example, in certain embodiments, as long as appropriate ligation is not prevented, two probes that comprise target-specific portions that are designed to hybridize to an identical portion of a target, but have different pivotal complements A and C at their 3' ends, may include variation within the target-specific portion as follows (see lower case nucleotide):

5' CATGCcAATGACGGA-3' (SEQ ID NO:24)

5' CATGCgAATGACGGC-3' (SEQ ID NO:25)